

What is claimed is:

1. A parachute comprising:

a plurality of first strips of fabric adapted to define a pattern wherein the first strips are separated from each other and extend parallel to each other;

a plurality of second strips of fabric adapted to further define the pattern wherein the second strips are separated from each other and extend parallel to each other and normal to the first strips, the number of the second strips being equal to the number of the first strips;

said first and second strips crossing each other at center portions thereof and thereby defining vent holes; and

ends of said strips being connected to suspension lines extendible to a confluence area.

2. The parachute in accordance with claim 1 wherein the fabric exhibits a tear resistance greater than 30 pounds.

3. The parachute in accordance with claim 2 wherein the fabric exhibits a tear resistance greater than 40 pounds.

4. The parachute in accordance with claim 3 wherein the fabric comprises polypropylene with a tear resistance of 40-65 lbs.

5. The parachute in accordance with claim 1 wherein each of said strips in plan view is generally rectangularly shaped, less said ends of said strips connected to the suspension lines.

6. The parachute in accordance with claim 5 wherein said strips are sewn to each other where said first strips cross said second strips.

7. The parachute in accordance with claim 6 wherein said strips define a canopy devoid of reinforcing lines and tapes and devoid of sewing other than where said strips are sewn to each other.

8. The parachute in accordance with claim 1 wherein said pluralities of strips each comprise 2-5 strips.

9. The parachute in accordance with claim 8 wherein said pluralities of strips each comprise three strips so as to define four vent holes.

10. The parachute in accordance with claim 9 wherein each of said strips is about 3 feet wide and about 51 feet long.

11. The parachute in accordance with claim 8 wherein said pluralities of strips each comprise 5 strips and each of said strips is about 5 feet wide and about 90 feet long.

12. The parachute in accordance with claim 1 wherein the suspension lines comprise ropes tied to said ends of said strips.

13. The parachute in accordance with claim 12 wherein said suspension ropes and said ends of said strips are tied together by self-tightening knots.

14. The parachute in accordance with claim 1 wherein the confluence area comprises load spreaders and D-rings, and wherein the suspension lines extend from the strip ends, through said load spreaders, and are attached to said D-rings which, in turn, support an article of cargo.

15. A method for making a parachute, the method comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of first strips of high tear resistant material extending parallel to each other and spaced from each other;

arranging a plurality of second strips of the material extending parallel to each other and spaced from each other, and extending normal to the first strips, with central portions of the first and second strips extending across each other;

fixing the first and second strips together where the first and second strips extend across each other;

wherein the first and second strips are of equal width and equal length and the spacings thereof define vents; and

fixing a suspension line to each free end of each strip, the suspension line being extendible to a common confluence area.

16. The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the fixing of the suspension line to a free end of a strip comprises tying the suspension line and the strip free end together with a self-tightening knot.

17. The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the fixing together of the first and second strips comprises stitching the first and second strips together.

18. The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the high tear resistant material is woven polypropylene.